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$\text{Ar}^1$  is an optionally substituted aromatic or  $\text{C}_{1-9}$  heteroaromatic group containing one to four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

$\text{L}^1$  is a covalent bond or a linker atom or group selected from  $-\text{CON}(\text{R}^2)-$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^2)$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^2)-$ , and  $-\text{O}-$ ;

$\text{R}^2$  is a hydrogen atom or a  $\text{C}_{1-3}$  alkyl group;

$\text{Ar}^2$  is an optionally substituted phenylene group;

$\text{R}^1$  is a group selected from  $-\text{NHCOR}^3$ ,  $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{R}^3$ ,  $-\text{NHR}^3$ ,  $-\text{NHC(O)OR}^3$ ,  $-\text{NHCSR}^3$ ,  $-\text{NHCON}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$ ,  $-\text{NHSO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$ , and  $-\text{NHCSN}(\text{R}^3)(\text{R}^{3a})$ ;

$\text{R}^3$  is an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  aliphatic group, an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  heteroaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ ,  $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$  (where  $\text{R}^8$  is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alkyl group),  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8-$ ,  $-\text{OC}(\text{O})\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$ ,  $-\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CO}-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CS}-$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{S}(\text{O})_2-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CON}(\text{R}^8)-$ ,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{CSN}(\text{R}^8)-$  and  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^8)\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}^8)-$ ; an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{3-10}$  cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{7-10}$  polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted  $\text{C}_{3-10}$  heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from  $-\text{O}-$ ,  $-\text{S}-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$ ,  $\text{OC}(\text{O})-$ ,  $-\text{C}(\text{S})-$ ,  $-\text{S}(\text{O})-$ ,

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-S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CS-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)- and -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-; an optionally substituted C<sub>7-10</sub> heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CS-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)- and -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C<sub>1-9</sub> heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;

R<sup>3a</sup> is a hydrogen atom, an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> aliphatic group, an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CS-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)- and -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-; an optionally substituted C<sub>3-10</sub> cycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C<sub>7-10</sub> polycycloaliphatic group, an optionally substituted C<sub>3-10</sub> heterocycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CS-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-;

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~~-N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)- and -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-; an optionally substituted C<sub>7-10</sub> heteropolycycloaliphatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from -O-, -S-, -C(O)-, -C(O)O-, OC(O)-, -C(S)-, -S(O)-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -C(O)NR<sup>8</sup>-, -OC(O)N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CO-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)C(O)O-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CS-, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)S(O)<sub>2</sub>-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CON(R<sup>8</sup>)-, -N(R<sup>8</sup>)CSN(R<sup>8</sup>)- and -N(R<sup>8</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>8</sup>)-; an optionally substituted aromatic group, or an optionally substituted C<sub>1-9</sub> heteroaromatic group containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur;~~

R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>a'</sup>, which may be the same or different, are each independently selected from a hydrogen or halogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkylthio or -(Alk<sup>b</sup>)<sub>m</sub>R<sup>b</sup> group (in which Alk<sup>b</sup> is a C<sub>1-3</sub> alkylene chain, m is zero or the integer 1, and R<sup>b</sup> is -OH, -SH, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CN, -CO<sub>2</sub>H, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup> (where R<sup>c</sup> is an optionally substituted straight or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SOR<sup>c</sup>, -SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -SO<sub>3</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -OCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>c</sup>, -C(O)H, -C(O)R<sup>c</sup>, -OC(O)R<sup>c</sup>, -C(S)R<sup>c</sup>, -NR<sup>d</sup>R<sup>e</sup> (where R<sup>d</sup> and R<sup>e</sup>, which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), -CON(R<sup>d</sup>)(R<sup>e</sup>), -OC(O)N(R<sup>d</sup>)(R<sup>e</sup>), -N(R<sup>d</sup>)C(O)R<sup>e</sup>, -CSN(R<sup>d</sup>)(R<sup>e</sup>), -N(R<sup>d</sup>)C(S)R<sup>e</sup>, -S(O)<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>d</sup>)(R<sup>e</sup>), -N(R<sup>d</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>e</sup>, -N(R<sup>d</sup>)CON(R<sup>e</sup>)(R<sup>f</sup>) (where R<sup>f</sup> is a hydrogen atom or an optionally substituted straight or branched C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl group), -N(R<sup>d</sup>)C(S)N(R<sup>e</sup>)(R<sup>f</sup>) or -N(R<sup>d</sup>)SO<sub>2</sub>N(R<sup>e</sup>)(R<sup>f</sup>) group);

Alk<sup>a</sup> is an optionally substituted C<sub>1-6</sub> aliphatic or C<sub>1-6</sub> heteroaliphatic chain containing one, two, three or four heteroatoms or heteroatom-containing groups selected from